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January 02, 2007

Public Service Commission of S.C.
P.O. Box 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RE: Docket 2005-385-E

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Posted: lod
Rept: S.A.
Date: 1/5/07
Time: 5:00

Dear Commissioners,

I am a homeowner in Greenville County who desires to implement solar photovoltaics as a means to provide for some of my home's electricity usage. I've read a lot about many homes and businesses throughout the country implementing solar and decided the time was right for my own home.

In researching my solar options I have discovered several inadequacies in South Carolina's renewable energy regulations and promotions. In my opinion the largest hindrance for a homeowner to installing solar photovoltaics in South Carolina is the lack of a net metering rule. When I call my utility provider and ask about net metering they say "that option is currently not available in South Carolina."

Without fair net metering rules my solar installation would require a sizeable battery backup and would also require me to buy a larger solar system to accommodate my electric needs. With net metering I can eliminate the batteries and size my system precisely for my needs. I would not have to oversize my electric generation to factor in my home's higher electric use periods and would not have to compensate for energy losses to and from batteries. Net metering makes the system installation simpler and more cost effective. Net metering allows me to use the electric grid as a means of "storing" the clean electricity I produce with my solar panels.

Forty states have net metering and South Carolina does not. That was the most telling statistic I found when researching my solar options. This table summarizes my findings:

Solar Photovoltaic System Variables	SOUTH CAROLINA	40 OTHER STATES
	NO Net Metering Rules	FAIR Net Metering Rules
System does not require batteries	No	Yes
System sized specific to needs	No	Yes
System utilizes less expensive inverter	No	Yes
System installation is straight forward	No	Yes
Overall system cost is less expensive	No	Yes
Solar promoted as a viable option for distributed renewable energy electric generation	No	Yes

If forty states have net metering, surely all the technical issues are resolvable by now. In fact, being one of the last on this list could actually work in South Carolina's favor. We can draw from the other states' experiences and make sure we do it right.

January 3, 2007

I want to do my part for cleaner air, less carbon emissions, less burning of fossil fuels, and less coal mined. "That option is currently not available in South Carolina" is not an option anymore. I encourage the Commission to make the right choice and vote in favor of net metering. The citizens of South Carolina want this option.

Thank you for your continued service as Commissioners and to the state of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Odell", written in a cursive style.

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cc: Office of Regulatory Staff